

STABILIZING FAMILIES IN A MORE CUSTOMIZED WAY

Best and Promising Practices



BUILDING CHANGES

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Building Changes

Transforming The Ways Communities Work Together To End Homelessness

Mission:

Building Changes believes everyone deserves the opportunity for a home, a healthy life, and a good job. We unite public and private partners to create innovative solutions through expert advice, grantmaking, and advocating for lasting change.

Our Strategies in Washington State

- Lead efforts to increase and align public funding and policies toward practices proven to prevent and end homelessness.
- Provide leadership and vision so that governments, nonprofits, and funders implement proven practices, collaborate with others, and sustain their effectiveness in ending homelessness.

Our Activities



Supporting Communities Through:

- Capacity Building
- Grantmaking
- Policy and Advocacy
- Measurement and Learning

Our Approach to Ending Homelessness

Solutions Working In Washington State:

- Prevention
- Coordinated Entry
- Tailored programs and services
- Economic opportunities
- Evaluation

Washington Families Fund

- Grew Out Of Sound Families Initiative
- Public-Private Partnership
 - ▣ Dedicated services funding connected to housing
 - ▣ Collaboration and provider partnerships key
 - ▣ Informed by data - test new approaches
- Program models
 - ▣ Families with moderate needs—75-80%
 - Benefit from **employment** and **education** programs
 - ▣ Families with high needs—20-25%
 - Benefit from housing with **intensive services**
 - ▣ Innovation grants
 - ▣ Navigator grants

Serving Families with High Needs

- Data showed 20-25% of families slipping back into homelessness
 - ▣ History of chronic homelessness
 - ▣ Multiple barriers to stable housing
 - ▣ On-going mental health or medical issues
 - ▣ Low income
 - ▣ Trauma/sexual violence
 - ▣ Child welfare involvement
 - ▣ Debt

Creating the High Needs Model

- Confirmed data
- Engaged providers
- Identified service needs, cost, case management model, housing approach
- Offered capacity building training
- Drew on national expertise
- Selected evaluator

High Needs Family Model: Snapshot

- High Needs Family Model
 - ▣ Launched in 2008
 - ▣ 222 units in 20 programs at 14 agencies in 13 counties
 - ▣ Five-year grants
 - ▣ Permanent housing and intensive services

High Needs Family Model: Housing and Services

■ Housing first

- ▣ Permanent Housing
 - Section 8 Project-based, tenant-based, or FUP vouchers

■ Service model

- ▣ Case management 1:8-12 ratio
- ▣ Mental health/substance abuse counseling
- ▣ Access to income benefit programs
- ▣ GED training
- ▣ Child welfare/family reunification
- ▣ Flex fund
- ▣ Health care connections

■ Partnerships key to success

- ▣ Pair housing providers with housing authorities
- ▣ Pair housing providers with services in community

High Needs Family Model: Program Support

- Ongoing Capacity Building
 - ▣ Quarterly Trainings
 - ▣ Peer Support and Peer Learning Networks
 - ▣ 1:1 Technical Assistance
 - Share evaluation data
 - Program model and design
 - Future of programs
 - Using data for future funding
 - ▣ Support conference attendance

Findings: Family Make Up

- Head of household: single, female, 32-yrs old
- 2-3 children: 67% have children under age 6
- Separated from at least 1 child: 44%
- Homeless in past 2 years: 90%
- Employed at baseline: 9%
- No income: 15%
- Debt: 86%; median is \$4,289
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): 64%
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI): 6%
- Behavioral health barriers: 75%
- Legal issues: >50%

Findings: Program Impact

- Service provider and house partnerships are critical to stability
- Case managers often are “the Program”
- Scattered-site housing programs:
 - ▣ Foster more independence, safety, housing quality than single-site
 - ▣ Challenges in delivering services
- Single-site housing programs:
 - ▣ Foster delivery of services in homes
 - ▣ Challenges in implementing harm reduction/housing first

Questions

